

than a hair; at first they are of a pale yellow Colour; afterwards red, and as big as a Cherry; some perfectly round, others Oval, all of them hollow, of a sower astringent taste". How any one considered competent to prepare a dictionary can have missed the fact that Josselyn's "*Cran Berry*" and "*Bear Berry*" were, as he said, identical, and were both *Vaccinium macrocarpon*, is almost beyond comprehension. Since, however, Josselyn (1672) was consulted, it is too bad, if the HISTORICAL sequence of usages is so important, that he was so generally ignored (as were many other early writings on American plants). Among the names of plants appearing in Vol. 1 of the *Dictionary* the following, selected from many, may be noted as occurring in Josselyn's *Rarities* and greatly antedating the first American records known to the editors, the dates of which are given, Josselyn's date (1672) being understood: **Cats-tail**, 1791; **Blue flag** (*Iris versicolor* and others), 1784—Josselyn had *Blew Flower-de-luce*; **Adder's-tongue** (*Ophioglossum*), all the *Dictionary's* quotations belonging to *Erythronium*, the earliest from 1832—Josselyn had *Adder's-tongue* and correctly understood it as *Ophioglossum*, a record which, if used, would have partly "saved the faces" of the editors; **Arsmart**, 1784; **Catmint**, 1737; **Clotbur**, 1817; **Cinquefoil**, 1778—Josselyn had *Cinkfoil*; **Avens**, 1784; **Cleavers**, 1781—Josselyn had *Clivers*; **Brake**, 1748, etc., etc.

I have been assured that the *Dictionary of American English* is "the last word" in its fields. It is hoped that, before any more words are published in the field of colloquial names of plants, the editors will add to their staff a thoroughly competent systematic botanist, with human interests as well. The treatment of this exacting field is one which cannot be covered by those whose ignorance of it is so apparent and who do not realize that their "wisdom" needs constant reinforcement from "understanding". It is not creditable to place such lack of understanding before the unsuspecting public as American scholarship; and it is not too much to insist that expensive and seemingly authoritative works of reference should be prepared with at least ordinary intelligence.—M. L. FERNALD.

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TWO PLANTS NEWLY INTRODUCED IN EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS.—Neither of the two following species has been reported from the Boston area, nor from the State of Massachusetts either, so far as I have investigated.

*ALLIARIA OFFICINALIS* Andrz. I discovered this by a shady roadside in Cohasset, Norfolk County, on May 13, 1944, just as it was coming into bloom. There were three small clumps of this interesting biennial. It is an old English garden plant used as a salad herb, according to Fernald and Kinsey. Its chief virtue is that its toothed heartshaped leaves combine the tang of the mustard with a strong odor of garlic. It is therefore called the garlic-mustard, and its name *Alliaria* is derived from *Allium*, the onion or garlic. "Sauce-alone" is an old English name for this plant. It has also been collected at Chester, Conn., by Mrs. S. G. Smith, May, 1897, also from Naugatuck by A. E. Blewitt, May 18, 1908.

*ELSHOLTZIA PATRINI* (Lepechin) Garcke. I found this weed close to the sidewalk in an ill-kept dooryard near the Liberty



School at Revere Beach on Oct. 1, 1943. In general appearance, especially as to its leaves, it had a resemblance to *Acalypha*, but I soon discovered its square stem and spikes of pale purple flowers. This Asiatic plant was included in our manuals because it was found by *J. L. Northrop* growing in great abundance in clearings and along the shore of Temiscouata Lake, near Notre Dame du Lac, Quebec. It has since been found in some abundance by Professor *M. L. Fernald*, growing beside the railroad track at New Limerick, Aroostook County, Maine, on Aug. 13, 1909. It was also found, Sept. 10, 1938, spontaneous and freely spreading in a dooryard in Chelsea, Orange County, Vt., by *J. G. Underwood*. Professor Fernald reports it as still flourishing in recent years at Notre Dame du Lac.—CLARENCE HINCKLEY KNOWLTON, Hingham, Mass.

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IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE OF *SERICOCARPUS BIFOLIATUS* IN THE MANUAL RANGE?—The hoary-pubescent *Sericocarpus bifolius* (Walt.) Porter (*S. tortifolius* Nees), a plant with small obovate leaves, has long been accorded a range northward into Virginia. The Virginia record seems to have started with Torrey & Gray, Fl. ii. 103 (1841), where "Virginia!" begins the stated range; but the paragraph ends with "In a specimen collected in Virginia by Mr. Durand, the lower leaves are sparingly crenate-serrate, and the others entire". Otherwise I find no evidence of the species from north of Pamlico County, North Carolina. I have not located the Durand specimen, which, as shown by the note, was atypical. We need a better voucher from Virginia.—M. L. FERNALD.

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